

VISIT...

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APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

EXCALIBUR

**MAXIMUM
MANHATTAN**

7 AM - 7 PM
NO
LEFT TURN

ONE WAY



EXCALIBUR'S

NEW YORK

Adventure

THE PLAZA HOTEL--
CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE
ONE OF THE FINEST IN THE
CITY, IF NOT THE WORLD--

--THE DAY AFTER OUR HEROES,
AMONG OTHERS, HELPED SAVE
BOTH CITY AND WORLD FROM

A MOST GLORIOUS
VICTORY.

WITH,
REGRETTABLY,
A PRICE
TO MATCH.

MEGGAN?!

NIGHTCRAWLER--
SHADOWCAT--
PHOENIX--
MEGGAN'S GONE!

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COLORIST / EDITOR / TOUR GUIDE / CREATORS



HULLO THE HOUSE--

..ANYBODY ABOUT?

EVIDENTLY NOT.



BROAD DAYLIGHT OUT THE WINDOWS.

HOW LATE HAVE I SLEPT?



NOTES?

NIGHTCRAWLER-- GONE TO CALIFORNIA TO RETRIEVE THE X-MEN'S OLD STRATOJET.

"MILK RUN." HE EXPECTS. SAW NO NEED TO DISTURB ME OR MEG.



CONSIDERATE OF HIM. SO MEGGAN WAS HERE WHEN HE LEFT.

SHADOWCAT'S OFF TO PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL TO COLLECT SOME PERSONAL BELONGINGS...

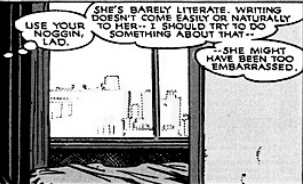
..AND PHOENIX, TO VISIT HER BABY BROTHER.



PROSAC AS CAN BE.

BUT WHERE'S MEGGAN GONE?

WHY DIDN'T SHE LEAVE A NOTE??



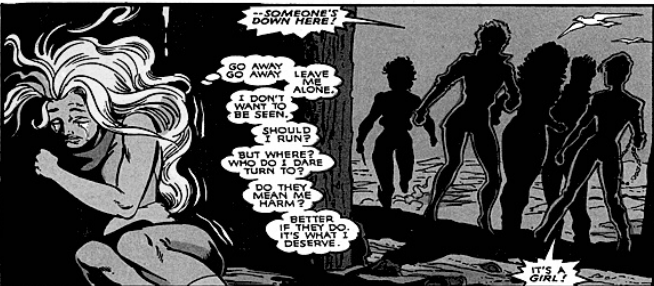
USE YOUR NOGGIN, LAD.

SHE'S BARELY LITERATE. WRITING DOESN'T COME EASILY OR NATURALLY TO HER-- I SHOULD TRY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT--

..SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO EMBARRASSED.









HEY, MONEY,
YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHA'CHU
DOIN'
HIDIN'...

...DOWN HERE
INNA DARK?

SHE'S
CRYING,
CARMEN!

I GOT EYES,
SHIRLENE!

I
SMILE...
I...



SOMEBODY
HURT'CHU?

SURE
LOOKS
LIKE.

LUIS AN' HIS
ROCKETEERS,
I BET.

THAT FIG-
IEYUCH!

CALL
THE COPS,
MAYBE?

NO!
PLEASE!
NO
POLICE.



NO BLOOD
OR BRUISES.

REMEMBER HOW
FRIEDA LOOKED
THAT TIME?

MEN
ARE
PIGS.

ROSALIE
CRIED LIKE
THIS WHEN
LUTHER--!

MONEEK!
BLAS IT TO
THE WORLD,
WHY
DON'T-CHA?

I AM...
SORRY.

WHA' FOR?



SLUG WHO MADE YOU SO MISERABLE
SHOULD BE SORRY.

SO, LIKE,
YOU FROM
AROUND
HERE?

NOT WITH
THAT
ACCENT,
DUMMY.

I'M
MONIQUE.

SHIRLENE.

CARMEN.

ROSALIE.

FELICIA.

YO, RO,
SHE'S BARE-
FOOTED!

AN' THAT
OUTFIT-- BET
SHE GOT MUGGED
ONNA WAY HOME
FROM GYM.

IF SHE
HAS A
HOME.



I AM
MEGGAN.

YOU'VE
BEEN VERY
KIND, BUT
I MUST--

Uh-uh, MEG,
NO WAY! THIS IS
NO TIME FOR A
GIRL TO BE
ALONE.

TRUST ME,
I'VE BEEN
THERE.
YOU NEED
FRIENDS.

AN' YOU
LUCKY
GAL, YOU
GOT US!



WHAT THIS
CHILD NEEDS,
CARMEN...

...IS SOME
DECENT
CLOTHES.

DRESSIN'
LIKE THAT JUST
GIVES THE BOYS
IDEAS.

I KNOW
SOMEONE WHO
WOULDN'T MIND
THAT-- RIGHT,
ROSALIE?

MOH-
NEEEK!

FORTY-ODD MILES NORTH
OF NEW YORK CITY...

...JUST OUTSIDE
THE TOWN OF
SALEM CENTER...

...ON THE GROUNDS OF
PROFESSOR XAVIER'S
SCHOOL FOR GIFTED
YOUNGSTERS...

IT'S BEEN
SMASHED TO
BITS!

QUICK ON
THE UPTAKE,
CANNONBALL...

...AS EVER.

STOP
BEIN' MEAN,
'BERTO.

THIS IS
TERRIBLE!
THE SCHOOL WAS
OUR HOME. WHAT'LL
WE DO...
--ALONE!



THAT'S UNCALLED FOR, GIRL, THIS WAS *OUR* HOME, TOO?

MINE LONGS BEFORE YOU LOT SHOWED BUB.

MAYBE NOT THIS, CANNONBALL, BUT THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH ELSE FOR YOU TO ANSWER FOR.

MAGNETO WAS HEADMASTER, WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE DONE WHAT HE TOLD YOU? WHAT MADE YOU FIGURE...

...YOU *KIDS* COULD PRETEND TO BE X-MEN?!

BACK OFF, GIRL, DANI AN' I'RE OLDER'N YOU!

WELL, YOU SURE DIDN'T *ACT* LIKE IT!

YOU'RE THE LEADERS, GUTHRIE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KNOW BETTER!

IT'S ONLY A HOUSE, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, IT CAN BE REBUILT.

CAN DOUG RAMSEY BE RESURRECTED, SUNSPOT?!

YOU'RE TALKIN' LIKE THIS IS *OUR* FAULT.

BLAME ME IF YOU MUST F'R DOUGLAS...

-- 'TIS *ANY* FAULT HE WAS KILLED!

STOP IT STOP IT STOP IT!!

(YOU USED TO TELL ME STORIES... I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY SPECIAL, BESTEST FRIEND...)

(BUT YOU'RE NOT!?)

ILLYANA-- I--

AN' IF I'D BEEN A BETTER, TRUER TEAMMATE TO ILLYANA, SHE MIGHT NOT HA' BECOME THE DARKCHILDE.

BUT I WASN'T AN' OTHERS PAID THE PRICE!

ILLYANA???

(HOW COULD YOU HURT HER SO-- I'M BETTER NOW BECAUSE OF HER, I'M *MYSELF* AGAIN!)

*TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN-- TK.

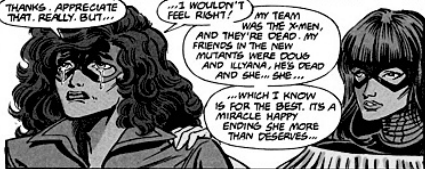
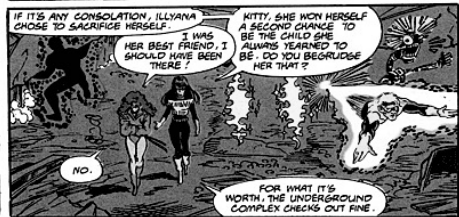
-- I... DON'T KNOW.

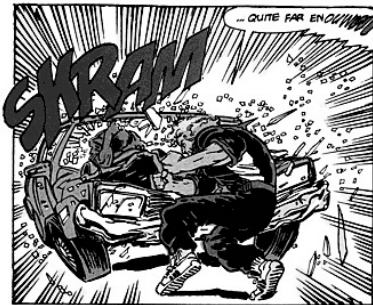
WE'VE ALL LOST SOMETHING PRECIOUS WITH THIS HOUSE, KITTY. BUT BOBBY'S RIGHT, IT CAN BE REPLACED.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE DREAM--THE IDEAL--THAT BROUGHT X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS TOGETHER THAT STILL HOLDS.

THE PEOPLE WE CARE FOR, THEY STILL REMAIN.

SOME OF 'EM, ANYWAY.







THE POLICE ARE
GUARDY ON THE
SCENE...

... VILLAINS AND SITUATION PLACED
AS QUICKLY UNDER CONTROL ...

NEVER BEEN
SAVED BY A
SUPER HERO
BEFORE.

HAPPENS ALL A TIME
ONNA MIDTOWN BEAT.
TAKE IT FROM ME.

USUALLY WEAR TOUGHER
OUTFITS,
THOUGH.

DON'T THINK...
... I'M HURT...

-- BUT THE
IMPACT THREW
ME ASIDE!

THAT ISN'T
SUPPOSED TO
HAPPEN! NOT
FROM A CAR!



MAM--
HE'S GOT
NO PRYTS!

OBOY!

GASP???



OOPS!

BLUSH!



GLAD TO
BE A
SERVICE,
SIR.

THERE'S A SPORTING
GOODS STORE ONNA
CORNER, PROBLY FIND
SUMPIN' THERE THAT'LL
SUITCHA.

WE'LL NEED
THE BLANKET
BACK, WHEN
YOU'RE DONE.
CITY PROPERTY,
Y'SEE.



AND SO...

YUM!

SISH!

EVERYBODY'S
STARING...

THESE
GYM TOSGS
DON'T FIT...

SIGH!

... ANY TISHTER
THAN MY UNIFORM...

... WHY ARE THEY
STARING?!

YUM!

SISH!

YUM!

YUM!

SISH!

YUM!

SISH!

YUM!

SISH!

YUM!



FORTUNATE I
BROUGHT MY
WALLET WITH
ME ...

IT'S STARING TO RAIN,
I'D BEST RETURN...

... NOTHING'S
HAPPENING?!

I'M NOT
TAKING OFF!

I CAN'T
FLY!







MEDIANVILLE...

...A CONTINENT
REMOVED...

LOOKS
LIKE AN
SR-71.

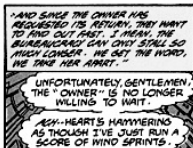
... AT THE LEGENDARY "SKUNK WORKS"
THE ADVANCED AIRSPACE RESEARCH
FACILITY... OF THE LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT
CORPORATION...

YEAH...LIKE A
PORSCHE 911
DOES A MODEL-T
FORD.

ACCORDING
TO THE FILES,
THIS IS PART OF
A PRIVATE RESEARCH
PROJECT, GOES BACK
YEARS, TO "KELLY"
JOHNSON'S TIME.

STANDS TO
REASON, SID...
MR JOHNSON
DESIGNED THE
ORIGINAL
"BLACKBIRD."

JOEY--NOBODY, BUT
NOBODY...I MEAN
CORPORATE, GOVERNMENT
MILITARY... KNOWS ZIP
ABOUT THIS BABY.



"AND SINCE THE OWNER HAS
REQUESTED ITS RETURN, THEY WANT
TO FIND OUT FAST. I MEAN, THE
BURBURYARD CAN ONLY STALL SO
MUCH LONGER. WE GET THE WORD,
WE TAKE HER APART."

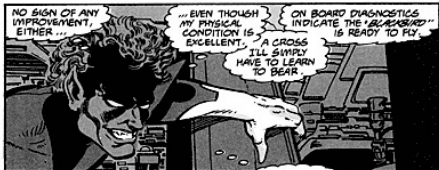
UNFORTUNATELY, GENTLEMEN,
THE "OWNER" IS NO LONGER
WILLING TO WAIT.

ASH--HEART'S HAMMERING
AS THOUGH I'VE JUST RUN A
SCORE OF WIND SPRINTS.



TIME TO FACE FACTS--
HYDRA-CRAWLER IS NOT
THE TELEPORTER HE
ONCE WAS.

ONE GOOD JAUNT
PER DAY APPEARS TO BE
MY NEW LIMIT.



NO SIGN OF ANY
IMPROVEMENT,
EITHER...

...EVEN THOUGH
MY PHYSICAL
CONDITION IS
EXCELLENT.

ON BOARD DIAGNOSTICS
INDICATE THE "BLACKBIRD"
IS READY TO FLY.

A CROSS
I'LL SIMPLY
HAVE TO LEARN
TO BEAR.



ALL I NEED
DO IS LIGHT
THE TORCH...

...AND WE'RE
OFF.

HEY! WHO'S
STARTING THE
ENGINES?



FEEL FOOLISH, "STEALING"
WHAT'S ESSENTIALLY MY
OWN PROPERTY.

I'D GIVE
ANYTHING FOR IT NOT TO
BE NECESSARY.

FOR
THIS
BEAUTY,
TO BE
WHERE
SHE
BELONGS...



...WITH THE
X-MEN.

BUT THE X-MEN
ARE DEAD...

...SO
I'M AFRAID
EXCALIBUR
WILL HAVE
TO DO.

NEW YORK,
NEW YORK...

...SO THE
OLD BOYS
SOBS...

...IT'S A MUGGERS' DENNY.

A LOT OF
OTHER WORDS
APPLY.

MANY CHARGE SOME
HONEY UNCOMPLIMENTARY.

OVER THE COURSE OF THE
DAY, BRIAN BRADDOCK
EXPERIENCES THEM ALL.

TO
ABSOLUTELY
NO AMPL.

DICK FINDS HIM
NO CLOSER TO FINDING
HIS LOST LADY
THAN DENNY.

PERHAPS THEN, HE MIGHT BE EXCUSED FOR PHRASING
A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION A TRUPLE INDELIBLY.

...FOR REACTING THE WAY SHE DOES.

SOLICITING? THERE
MUST BE SOME MISTAKE,
OFFICER.

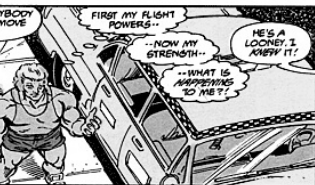
WHADDYADOIN'?
YOU CAN'T BUST
HIM...

--HE'S A
SCOPPERHERD!

THEY! AND GUESS
WHO MADE IT,
BRIGHTBUNS!

I MEAN NO
DISRESPECT,
OFFICER.

JUST AS OFFICER BARBI
McALLISTER...FOR WHOM
THIS HAS ALSO BEEN NOT
THE BEST OF DAYS...
MIGHT BE FORGIVEN...





MEATBALLS... I'VE NEVER ENJOYED MYSELF MORE.

'COURSE NOT, YOU'RE WITH ME!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY ARE WE--?

WE MADE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC OUT THERE, BABE.

NOW'S OUR CUE TO DO EVEN BETTER...



...IN HERE! NO, PLEASE!

DON'T FIGHT IT, BABE. TRUST ME.

I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT BETTER THAN YOU DO YOURSELF.

...BETTER THAN I DO MYSELF...



SEE, WAS THAT SO BAD?

HOW ABOUT AGAIN--AN' MORE!

NO! PLEASE!

BABE! BABE!

THIS IS SILLY.

STOP THINKIN' FOR YOURSELF, THAT'S MY JOB. JUST LET ME TAKE CONTROL, YOU JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD, YOU'LL BE LOTS HAPPIER THAT WAY.



YES...SO EASY... FOLLOW... OBEY... SERVE...

I WANT TO BE HAPPY.

WHY MUST IT BE SO HARD?

I WANT TO BE...

...MYSELF!

-- I SAID, NO!



LEAVE OUT THERE!

SHE'S A CRAZY WOMAN, A NUT!

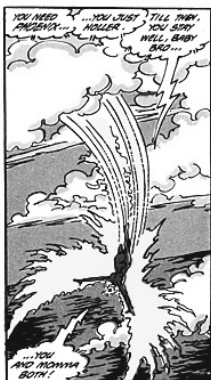
IS THIS MY ONLY PROTECTION...

...TO MANIFEST THE FULLEST PART OF MYSELF?

IF THAT IS THE PRICE OF STANDING UP...

...PERHAPS IT IS TOO HIGH?





MEANTHILE...

...AT THE GREENWICH
VILLAGE B-BALL COURTS, ON THE
CORNER OF SIXTH AVENUE AND
WEST FOURTH...

TWO POINTS! EAT YOUR
HEART OUT,
LEVON!



THEY PLAY
MAGNIFICENTLY.

I COULD WATCH
FOR HOURS.

I LIKE THE GAME
AS WELL.

A TEST OF
SKILL AND
STRENGTH AND
STAMINA.



SPIN, WATCH
IT!

MY
ANKLE!

SHOOT,
THERE'S THE
GAME!



I WILL CARRY HIM.

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT.



TOUGH BREAK, MARTY.
BUT YOU KNOW THE
RULES.

YOU DON'T
FINISH, YOU
FORFEIT.

MAY I
TAKE
SPIN'S
PLACE?



SURE STRUTS THE COURT
BETTER'N ANYONE I EVER
SEEN!

BUT CAN SHE PLAY?

I HAVE SEEN
IT OFTEN ON THE
TELEVISION.

AND I LEARN
VERY
FAST.

BAD NEWS,
SPIN.



IN THE
GAME?

C'MON, MAN, BE
SERIOUS.

YOU WANNA
TURN THIS
INTO A
JERKE?

SUBS
ARE ALLOWED.



IT'S *ARE*
WITH ME, MARTY,
LET HER PLAY.

FEELS
LIKE A
SPRAIN.

GAME'S OVER
FOR ME, GUYS!

YOU GUYS
ARE DOOMED!



AND
SO...



I HAD A
GLORIOUS
TIME!

I SAW CONEY ISLAND
AND PROSPECT PARK
AND CHINATOWN. I
RODE THE SUBWAY,
I ATE COTTON CANDY
AND MADE SOME
WONDERFUL NEW
FRIENDS. I DANCED.
I ...

I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR YOU ALL
DAY.



I'VE
BEEN WORRIED
SICK.

BUT, BRIAN--
WHATEVER WAS
THERE TO WORRY
ABOUT?

I'M A GROWN
WOMAN ...

... AND WITH MY
POWERS, I'M PERFECTLY
CAPABLE OF DEFENDING
MYSELF.



THAT'S THE
POINT!

SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING TO
MINE-- THEY'RE
GROWING WEAKER
BY THE HOUR--

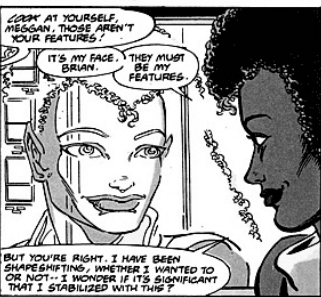
--AND I
FEAR YOU'RE
AFFECTED AS
WELL.



LOOK AT YOURSELF,
MEGGAN. THOSE AREN'T
YOUR FEATURES!

IT'S MY FACE.
BRIAN.

THEY MUST
BE MY
FEATURES.



BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. I HAVE BEEN
SHAPESHIFTING, WHETHER I WANTED TO
OR NOT-- I WONDER IF IT'S SIGNIFICANT
THAT I STABILIZED WITH THIS?

OK, BRIAN... YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE, TO SEE THE WHOLE GAME!

I WAS DOING SO WELL, I WASN'T USING MY POWERS TO HELP, I WAS PLAYING THOSE MEN ON THEIR PHYSICAL TERMS...

--AND I WON!

I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD DO THAT--STAND UP FOR MYSELF, BY MYSELF, AS MYSELF--I NEVER DREAMT IT WOULD FEEL SO GOOD!

MY SHARE OF WHAT DO THE AMERICANS CALL IT, THE POT?

ALLOW ME THIS ONCE...

RIDE'S OVER, BUB, TIME YA PAY THE TAB, METER PLUS TIP.

CERTAINLY-- ER, AH, UM--MY WALLET!?

HERE IT COMES, A SOOPER HERO SOB STORY, I SHOULD'A GUESSED!

NO, I HAVE, I HAD-- IT MUST HAVE BEEN STOLEN!

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW, G'WAN, SIDDADDAH, YA STIFF!

WILL THIS SUFFICE?

MISS-- ..ANYTIME!

...MY SWEET, DARLING BRIAN...

...TO SAVE YOU!

NEXT: THE TWO-FAR SHIRT!

